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News Release

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County receives grant for electric vehicles, chargers

LĪHU'E – County officials announced today that the state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism has awarded the County of Kaua'i an EV (electric vehicle) Ready Grant. The grant is supported by funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The \$276,000 grant will allow the county to implement a comprehensive EV Support and Outreach program that satisfies the requirements of a recently passed state law.

Plans for the program include the purchase of six electric chargers that will be installed at county facilities. The funding will also be used to acquire five commercially available electric vehicles with charging stations for county use.

“Supporting the establishment and use of electric vehicles on Kaua'i and throughout the state is a major component of the Kaua'i Energy Sustainability Plan, which was approved by the County Council a few months ago,” said Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Jr. “The EV Ready Grant will enable us to take a giant step forward in this effort.”

During his inaugural speech titled *Holo Holo 2020*, the mayor spoke about his vision for Kaua'i in the year 2020, which includes him driving an electric vehicle and being able to charge it at stations around the island.

“We are very excited about starting a comprehensive EV Support and Outreach program on Kaua'i, and have already assembled a county team to get the program off the ground that includes several departments: Public Works; Parks and Recreation; and Finance,” said George Costa, director of the Office of Economic Development.

The EV public outreach program will also include: informational brochures; displays at public venues such as the Kaua'i County Farm Bureau Fair and an Earth Day event; and presentations at energy conferences.

Estrella Seese, acting energy administrator for DBEDT's Energy Office said, “Strong partnerships are being developed to help speed up the use of electric vehicles and charging equipment in Hawai'i.”

Noting that charging an electric vehicle costs much less than filling a tank with gasoline, Seese said, “Drivers will be saving on fuel costs, less imported oil will be used for the same amount of mileage, and in the near future, electric cars will be fueled by electricity produced from renewable resources such as the sun and wind.”

The EV Ready Grant Program is part of the Transportation Energy Diversification Project, which is supported by ARRA funds. These funds are directed for use in the Hawai'i State Energy Program through the U.S. Department of Energy.

The installation of electric vehicle charging stations is one of 38 projects that are part of Mayor Carvalho's Holo Holo 2020 vision for Kaua'i, which calls for all organizations, businesses, residents and visitors on Kaua'i to be part of creating an island that is sustainable, values the native culture, has a thriving and healthy economy, cares for all – keiki to kupuna – and has a responsible and user-friendly local government.



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